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10/054,185	01/22/2002	Mark A. Lewellen	LEWELLEN.1076	4466

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EXAMINER

TRIEU, VAN THANH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2636

DATE MAILED: 02/27/2004

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/054,185

Applicant(s)

LEWELLEN, MARK A.

Examiner

Van T Trieu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 January 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1, 5-7, 10-14, 17, 18, 20, 23, 24 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Pala et al** [US 6,304,173].

Regarding claim 1, the claimed first video monitor (the monitor 24 in a first position, the second monitor 76 or the monitor 24 hinges downward on cover 140 to be visible to a driver, see Figs. 1 and 9, col. 3, lines 1-3 and 17-19 and col. 6, lines 23-25); and the second video monitor (the monitor 24 in the second position 24a, 24d or the monitor 24 can hang downward and rest against the center console 138 to be viewable by passengers in the rear seats 62, 63, see Figs. 1, 5, 6 and 8, col. 3, lines 3-6, col. 5, lines 49-51 and col. 6, lines 7-21); and the vehicle interface (the front and rear input controls 78, 80, gear position input 90 and entertainment inputs 70, 74, 86, 88 and 89 send signals along a control bus 82 to a video switch 84 which selectively routes video signal to the monitor 24, 24a and 76, see Figs. 1 and 2, col. 3, lines 38); and the plurality of video cameras (cameras 50, 116 and 117, see Figs. 5 and 6); and the video switching mechanism (video switcher 84, see Fig. 2); and the first monitor source selector (the switcher 84 is adapted to select among video signals from the cameras 50, 116, or 117

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to display on the monitor 24 in the first position or 76 to view by the driver, see Fig. 2, col. 3, lines 36-46 and col. 4, lines 35-38); and the second monitor source selector (the user input controls 78, 80 and/or the video switcher 84 is used to select video input from any video cameras 50, 116, 117 and any entertainment programs 70, 74, 86, 88 and 89 that not displayed on the monitor 24a or 24d, see Figs. 2, 5 and 6, col. 3, lines 10-35, col. 4, lines 20-27 and col. 5, lines 1-9); and the user interface that allows a user to control the video switching mechanism to specify at least one default video output of the video camera for display on at least one of the monitors when no control signals are active on the vehicle interface (the user selects the video switch 84 to send the video signal selectively from the cameras 50, 116 or 117 to the display 24, wherein the initial position of the cameras 50, 116, 117 and the default or initial view provided to the monitor 24 when in the first position may be user-definable through software. That initial default video output is displayed when no gear control input signal 90 or other control signals are active or operative on the vehicle interface, see col. 4, lines 35-43. The user can define a default or initial selection by selecting the switch 84 to send video signal from one of the entertainment components such as the movie player, auto PC/MMS 86, TV tuner 88, video game 50, without gear control input signal 90 and others, see col. 5, lines 4-9).

Regarding claim 5, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claim 1 above, the reverse gear input 90.

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Regarding claim 6, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 7, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claim 1 above, and including the user input controls 78 and 80 and video switcher 84 for changing the default source.

Regarding claim 10, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claims 5 and 7 above.

Regarding claim 11, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claim 7 above.

Regarding claim 12, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claim 1 above, wherein the monitor 24a is in a second position.

Regarding claim 13, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claim 12 above.

Regarding claim 14, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claim 1 above, and including the graphic view indicator on the video monitor that indicates which video output is currently being displayed on the video monitor (the user/driver can select the video switch 84 for sending the video signal selectively from the cameras 50,

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116 or 117 to the display 24 to indicate of front, rear or side views 54, 56, 58 including distance from an object/obstacle adjacent to the vehicle, so that the user/driver can have a full view, wherein those video camera views 54, 56, 58 are inherently representing as the graphical views or scene views, see Figs. 2, 5 and 6, col. 1, lines 32-39, col. 4, lines 28-52).

Regarding claim 17, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claims 5 and 14 above.

Regarding claim 18, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claim 17 above.

Regarding claim 20, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claims 1 above.

Regarding claim 23, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claims 5 and 20 above.

Regarding claim 24, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claims 6 and 20 above.

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Regarding claim 28, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claims 5 and 25 above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22, 26, 27 and 29 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Pala et al** [US 6,304,173] in view of **Lee** [US 5,680,123].

Regarding claim 3, **Pala et al** fails to disclose the source selector displays on the video monitor a video output of a video camera disposed to provide a view of the left side of the vehicle in response to a left turn signal on the vehicle being activated on the vehicle driver interface. However **Pala et al** teaches that the vehicle interface of gear position input 90 send signals to the control bus 82 for automatically displaying rear view whenever the gear is in reverse. The left and right cameras 116 and 117 are for capturing images of left and right sides of the vehicle 22, which are send to the control bus 82 to a video switcher 84 for selectively displaying the captured images to a driver monitor 24 or 76, see Figs. 1, 2, 5 and 6, col. 3, lines 1-3 and 17-46. **Lee** suggests that a vehicle monitoring system includes a turn signal control switch 42 being used for selecting display at least one of the cameras 12, 14, or 16 to view of the surrounding

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regions A, B, or C surrounding regions of the vehicle 22. The left camera 12 is selected when the turn signal control switch 42 is put into a down position 43B to represent a left turn. The right camera 16 is selected when the turn signal control switch 42 is put into an up position 43A to represent a right turn, see Figs. 1A and 3-6, abstract, col. 1, lines 58-67, col. 2, lines 1-7, col. 3, lines 25-67. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the right and left turn signals for activating the respected cameras to be view by a driver of **Lee** to the control bus of **Pala et al** since the reverse signal is used to activate the rear camera for viewing by the driver whenever the gear is in reverse. Adding turn signals to detect the blind spot alongside a driver's vehicle can be observed by the driver in response to a right or left turn signal, and to increase safety to the traffic vehicle.

Regarding claim 4, all the claimed subject matters are discussed between **Pala et al** and **Lee** in respect to claims 1 and 3 above, for the right turn signal.

Regarding claims 8 and 9, all the claimed subject matters are discussed between **Pala et al** and **Lee** in respect to claims 3, 4 and 7 above.

Regarding claims 15 and 16, all the claimed subject matters are discussed between **Pala et al** and **Lee** in respect to claims 3, 4 and 14 above.

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Regarding claim 19, all the claimed subject matters are discussed between **Pala et al** and **Lee** in respect to claims 1 and 3-6 above.

Regarding claims 21 and 22, all the claimed subject matters are discussed between **Pala et al** and **Lee** in respect to claims 3, 4 and 20 above.

Regarding claims 26 and 27, all the claimed subject matters are discussed between **Pala et al** and **Lee** in respect to claims 3, 4 and 25 above.

Regarding claim 29, all the claimed subject matters are discussed between **Pala et al** and **Lee** in respect to claims 1 and 3-6 above.

3. Claims 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Pala et al** [US 6,304,173] in view of **Strumolo et al** [US 6,535,242].

Regarding claim 30, **Pala et al** fails to disclose the user interface that allows a user in the room to use a wireless interface to control the video mechanism. However, **Pala et al** teaches that the user/driver uses the user interface video switch 84 for sending selective video signal to a display 24, see Fig. 2, col. 4, lines 35-38. **Strumolo et al** suggests that the user/driver 52 can use the input device 26 including selective position switch, a series of buttons, a keyboard, touch pad, microphone and voice recognition system for commanding to select cameras and sending video signals to the display 12, see Fig. 1, col. 4, lines 19-67 and col. 5, lines 1-2. Therefore, it would have been

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obvious to one skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the microphone and voice recognition of **Strumolo et al** to the user interface of **Pala et al** since the microphone and voice ignition circuit are very small and available in the market that can be add-on to the interface in order to allow driver free hands to control the steering wheel of the vehicle while traveling on a highway, which will prevent of accident or collision.

Regarding claim 31, all the claimed subject matters are discussed between **Pala et al** and **Strumolo et al** in respect to claims 1 and 30 above.

Regarding claim 32, all the claimed subject matters are discussed between **Pala et al** and **Strumolo et al** in respect to claims 1 and 31 above.

4. Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Pala et al** and **Strumolo et al** and further in view of **Lee** [US 5,680,123].

Regarding claim 33, all the claimed subject matters are discussed between **Pala et al** and **Strumolo et al** and **Lee** in respect to claims 3-5 and 31 above.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on 09 January 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Because,

Applicant's arguments:

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(A) **Pala et al** fail to disclose the amend reciting the user interface that allows a user to control the video switching mechanism to specify at least one default video output of the video camera for display on at least one of the monitors when no control signals are active on the vehicle interface.

(B) **Pala et al** do not disclose the view indicator mechanism that displays a graphic view indicator on the video monitor that indicates which video output is currently being displayed on the video monitor.

(C) **Pala et al** do not disclose the user interface allowing the user to interact with a video signal switch and controller coupled to the monitor, a second default source specification that determines which output is displayed on the video monitor when no control signals are present on the vehicle interface.

Response to the arguments:

(A) The user interface switch allows a user/driver to set a default or initial camera position for capturing and sending images to the display before or prior any of the other control signals such as the reverse gear signal provided to the control interface.

(B) The video view for each of the front, rear and side cameras are manually or automatic controlled to display of distance object/obstacle adjacent to the vehicle, which is viewed by the user/driver, so that the driver can identify what and where the object/obstacle is. Those particular views are inherently representing specific graphical indicator to the driver for preventing of accident.

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(C) The user interface switch allows a user/driver to define a default or initial selection by selecting the switch to send video signal from one of the entertainment components such as the movie player, auto PC/MMS, TV tuner, or video game, before or without receiving of the gear control input signal to the control interface.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from examiner should be directed to primary examiner **Van Trieu** whose telephone number is (703) 308-5220. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

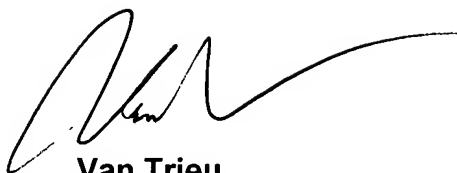
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. **Jeffery Hofsass** can be reached on (703) 305-4717.

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The office facsimile number is (703) 872-9314.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Van Trieu', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Van Trieu
Primary Examiner
Date: 2/25/04